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# FBI Shared Spy Data on Hawaii Before Attack, New Documents Show

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WASHINGTON—In the months immediately before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, the FBI shared with military intelligence a double-agent's information disclosing that the Japanese had sought the assistance of Nazi Germany to learn about U.S. defenses in Hawaii, newly declassified documents showed Thursday.

The FBI made the documents public to challenge the conclusion of two Michigan State University historians, published last December, that the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover "used the information to demonstrate how efficient the FBI was rather than to warn of a possible attack."

Declassification of the previously secret documents lifts the curtain further on the activities of a German spy-turned-British-agent, Dusan M. Popov.

The new material is likely to add fuel to the unresolved questions of whether American intelligence had solid information that a Japanese attack could be expected on Pearl Harbor and whether it handled the warning properly.

## List of Questions

At the heart of the matter is a list of questions in microdot—a microphotography process that can reduce a page of writing to the size of the dot over an "i"—that the Germans gave Popov to answer while on a 1941 mission for them to the United States.

Among other things, the questions sought "exact positions of Army air bases at Wicham (Hickam) Field and Wheeler Field in Hawaii . . . whether Bodger Airport in Hawaii will be taken over by the Army in wartime, whether preparations are being made."

Writing in *The American Historical Review*, John F. Bratzel and Leslie B. Rout Jr. of Michigan State disclosed that Hoover on Sept. 3, 1941, sent blowups of the Popov microdots to Gen. Edwin M. Watson, secretary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to show him and the President one way that German espionage transmitted messages to its agents.

## Editing by Hoover

Relying on documents from the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, N.Y., and on information provided by the FBI, the historians found that Hoover had edited the questionnaire he sent Roosevelt, excluding the questions on Hawaii.

"... the FBI now states that the only information sent to the Army and Navy intelligence offices on this occasion was a duplicate of that sent to the President," Bratzel and Rout wrote.

However, one of the documents released Thursday, an Oct. 20, 1941, memorandum for D.M. Ladd, then assistant FBI director for intelligence, said: "... the entire questionnaire furnished Popov concerning Naval matters was rephrased and discussed with ONI (Office of Naval Intelligence) by Mr. (A.M.) Thurston (one of Ladd's subordinates)."

Naval Intelligence asked the FBI to pick out one particular item in the questionnaire so that Popov could be given information "not necessarily true" to relay to the Germans.